

How to Cite:

Nia, D. T. (2022). Rights of persons with disabilities in the light of international conventions. *International Journal of Health Sciences*, 6(S5), 6665–6676.
<https://doi.org/10.53730/ijhs.v6nS5.10315>

Rights of persons with disabilities in the light of international conventions

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Abstract---Persons with disabilities, as a significant part of human society, face many challenges and limitations due to physical and mental limitations, which cause a large part of their human rights to be ignored or violated. In order to recognize the rights of persons with disabilities, international conventions such as the Convention on the rights of the child and the Convention on the rights of persons with disabilities have been adopted, each of which defines parts of the rights of persons with disabilities. Since the most important challenge in the lives of persons with disabilities is the unjust and widespread discrimination against them in society, it is intended to examine some of the rights of persons with disabilities, such as social rights, the right to rehabilitation, the right to work, housing and education which has been addressed in international documents and conventions relating to persons with disabilities.

Keywords---Persons with disabilities, Rights, Discrimination, International Convention, Human Rights.

Introduction

The human rights of persons with disabilities is one of the biggest challenges in today's societies because, with the increasing growth rate of disability and the absolute number of persons with disabilities, the human dimension of this phenomenon is much wider than previously thought. What is important here is a legal approach to this issue, not a compassionate approach and giving alms and pensions to meet the group's needs, which are often kept in the society from meeting the needs of their daily lives. In the past, perhaps only a compassionate look and the payment of material or spiritual assistance could be useful, but the world today, and especially persons with disabilities, do not tolerate such assistance. In recent years, the world communities have sought to create a society in which all human beings can enjoy God-given gifts without regard for discrimination by introducing concepts such as health for all, education for all, and the right to equal use of opportunities in societies. Persons with disabilities in

societies still suffer from different labels and inequalities in access to opportunities, not only in economic opportunities but also in educational, cultural, social, and political opportunities (*Gallyamova, Z. V., et. al., 2019; Rezapour, A., et. al., 2020; Algahtani, F. D. 2020*). There is still a compassionate view of service institutions for persons with disabilities. The greatest need of the persons with disabilities community is for them to be recognized as first-class citizens to enjoy all the rights that others enjoy in society. This emphasizes the need to change people's attitudes and those in charge of various matters of society about persons with disabilities.

The concept of persons with disabilities

Persons with disabilities refer to a person who cannot do what other people of the same age do with equal knowledge and experience (Bagherian, 1998: 30). According to Article 1 of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, persons with disabilities include those who have long-term physical, mental, intellectual, or sensory disabilities, whose interaction with various obstacles may stop their full and effective participation in equal conditions in society. Disability law refers to physical or mental conditions that prevent a person from normal daily activities or impose serious limitations on those activities (qari Seyed Fatemi, 2010, 375).

It should be noted that the challenges faced by persons with disabilities are not necessarily due to their physical and mental condition, but in most cases, it is the misconception of society that keeps them away from the workplace (Mousavi, 2017, 4). The biggest challenge facing persons with disabilities in society is the issue of discrimination in its various forms.

The introduction of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities states that persons with disabilities are different by emphasizing the need for them to ensure the enjoyment of all fundamental rights and freedoms without discrimination. Therefore, they need special support and care, and discrimination against any person on the basis of disability causes a loss of his inherent value and dignity (Janghorban and Abolhassani Zareh, 2011, 98).

According to Article 1 of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination and Article 1 of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, discrimination can be defined as any distinction of exception or limitation, or superiority between persons on the basis of race, color, sex, language, religion, political opinion, nationality or social origin, birth ownership or other factors whose purpose or effect is to endanger of equal rights and fundamental freedoms for all human beings. In fact, the fundamental grounds of individual rights and freedoms should be found in the equality of human beings, but among the sections of society, persons with disabilities community face many inequalities, while they should have the same fundamental rights as others (Hashemi, 2005, 216). The Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities states that discrimination based on disability means any discrimination, exclusion, or limitation based on disability, the purpose or effect of which is to disrupt or destroy the right to recognition, enjoyment, or realization of all human rights and fundamental freedoms equal to others in the

political, economic, socio-cultural, civil and other fields. This includes all forms of discrimination, including the denial of rational facilities. Rational facilities mean necessary changes and reforms that, without imposing disproportionate or unnecessary pressures in a particular case, ensure enjoyment or realization of all human rights and fundamental freedoms for persons with disabilities and inequality with others.

Persons with disabilities in the context of international conventions

Persons with disabilities advocacy movements date back to the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. The first societies and organizations in England were founded in 1889 for the blind and in 1890 for the deaf. In the United States, these movements became active after the end of World War I, with the return of the blind and other war persons with disabilities. The history of international attention can also be seen in the Declaration of the Rights of the Child in 1924, which was issued by the League of Nations on the proposal of an NGO active in 5 articles. In this Declaration, children with mental disabilities are protected (Mosaffa, 2002, 255).

According to the United Nations Development Program, 80% of persons with disabilities live in developing countries. Poverty is the biggest problem of humanity and the most important cause of human rights violations, especially in developing countries. World Bank estimates reflect the fact that 20% of the world's poor are somehow persons with disabilities. International attention to advocacy for persons with disabilities has been growing at the initiative of the United Nations since the early 1970s. Since the United Nations General Assembly declared 1981 the International Year of Persons with Disabilities, it has been a long time. The proclamation of December 3 each year as the International Day of Persons with Disabilities and the development of a global action plan for the persons with disabilities have been followed by extensive efforts at various community levels to improve the situation of persons with disabilities. Following the proclamation of 1981 as the International Year of Persons with Disabilities and the period from 1983 to 1992 as the United Nations Decade for the Persons with disabilities, adopted at the 30th UN General Assembly, initiatives have been taken to prevent disability, rehabilitation, and equal opportunities in developing countries which UN-affiliated organizations and agencies, as well as international NGOs, have often been directly involved in the initiative or through reciprocal assistance programs (Tavassoli, 2008, 56).

Convention on the Rights of the Child

One of the first international documents specifically referring to persons with disabilities is the Convention on the Rights of the Child, which states the rights of children with disabilities in Article 23 as follows: 1- States Parties recognize that a child who is mentally or physically persons with disabilities must grow up and enjoy a dignified and complete life in a way that ensures dignity and increased self-reliance and facilitates the child's active participation in society. 2- States Parties recognize the rights of children with disabilities to receive special care and will encourage and guarantee the provision of such care in accordance with the circumstances of the parents or guardians of the child and subject to the

availability of resources to such children and those responsible for their care. 3- Recognizing the special needs of the persons with disabilities child, the assistance provided in Paragraph 2 of this article, if possible, should be provided free of charge and taking into account the financial resources of the parents or guardians of the child and should be planned so that the persons with disabilities child can have effective access to education and health care services and rehabilitation services to prepare for employment and create opportunities in a way that achieves the child to achieve maximum social perfection and personal development, including his cultural and spiritual development. 4- Conventional countries, through international cooperation, increase the exchanging information on health care, prevention of medical treatment, and psychology of children with disabilities, including the dissemination of information on rehabilitation methods, vocational education, and services, with the aim of enabling convention countries to develop skills and abilities and the development of their experiences in this field. In this regard, special attention will be paid to the needs of developing countries.

International Convention on the Rights to the Persons with Disabilities

In another step to protect the rights of persons with disabilities, the UN General Assembly adopted Resolution 3447 in 1975 as the Declaration of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. The purpose of this Declaration is to prevent physical and mental disabilities and help persons with disabilities develop their ability to perform various activities and participate as much as possible in social life. In order to make progress in this area, countries must expand their core actions within their own country or internationally. The Declaration of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities recognizes the rights of persons with disabilities, which are emphasized in the Declaration of the Rights of the Mentally Retarded. The most important of these rights are 1- Having equal rights with other people. 2- Ability to have civil and political rights like other people. 3- Enjoying psychiatric medical treatment, rehabilitation, and the right to education. 4- The right to enjoy economic and social security following the talents of their profession, including the right to work in a particular profession. 5- The right to live with one's family or those who have adopted a child. 6- The right to legal aid to protect the life and property of persons with disabilities. The Declaration also recommends that persons with disabilities be protected from all forms of exploitation, regulation, discriminatory, abusive, and inappropriate behavior, and consult with disability organizations before taking action on the rights of persons with disabilities and on matters relating to them in general.

On December 13, 2006, the General Assembly adopted the International Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and entered into force on March 30, 2007. The Convention contains a number of general principles and obligations, including 1- Respect for the inherent dignity of individual autonomy, including freedom of choice and independence of individuals, 2- Non-discrimination, 3- Full and effective participation and entry into the society, 4- Respect for differences and acceptance of persons with disabilities as part of human diversity, 5- Equality of opportunity, 6- Access to available resources also includes some general commitments, which can be referred to in Article 1, which states that States Parties undertake to ensure and promote the realization of all

human rights and fundamental freedoms for all persons with disabilities, without any discrimination on the basis of disability (Abdullahi, 2007, 40).

According to Article 1 of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, this Convention aims to promote the protection and assurance of the equal enjoyment of the human rights and fundamental freedoms of all persons with disabilities and to increase respect for the dignity of their inherent right. Also, according to this Convention, a person with disabilities has all the intrinsic and comprehensive characteristics of instinctive and emotional actions and reactions. It is not possible to discriminate against him just because he is a person with disabilities. His privacy in family, personal affairs, relationships, and other communication matters may not be violated (Paragraph 1 of Article 22). His inalienable rights in the field of marriage, family, childcare, the right to freely choose a spouse, retention of reproductive power, guardianship, custody, and adoption, living with parents, right to birth, having a name, nationality (Paragraph 2 of Article 18) may not be ignored. He may not be subjected to scientific and medical studies without his free consent (Paragraph 1 of Article 15). He cannot be left alone during military conflicts and occupation by foreign forces (Paragraph 4 of the Introduction) or during emergencies and natural disasters (Article 11), and his right to life (Article 10) and individual existence (Article 17) cannot be denied (Tavassoli, 2008, 64).

Declaration of the Rights of Persons with Mental Retardation

The adoption of the Declaration of the Rights of Persons with Mental Retardation in 1971 by the United Nations General Assembly is an important step toward the protection of the rights of persons with disabilities in international documents. This Declaration is regulated in 7 articles and pays more attention to the living conditions of the persons with disabilities, recognizes the rights to protect them, and calls for the assistance of governments in implementing its provisions. Article 1 of the Declaration states that the mentally retarded should, as far as possible, enjoy the same rights as other human beings. Article 2 mentions the right to health services, educational facilities, and rehabilitation. Article 3 discusses the issue of mentally retarded employment in order for them to enjoy economic security and well-being in life. Their right to work in productive work or any other useful work is recognized. In order to fulfill this principle of the Declaration, governments must remove legal and employment barriers to the work of persons with disabilities to engage in the work they are able to do and have a sufficient wage to earn a living.

The concept of social rights

When the Universal Declaration of Human Rights was adopted in 1948, there was little doubt about the inclusion of economic and social rights. The Universal Declaration of Human Rights provided that everyone around the world should enjoy the rights contained in it.

Social rights consist of a set of rights and protections through which comfort, welfare, and well-being are maximized, and non-welfare is minimized. In a narrow sense, social rights are rights that an individual has as a member of society and

influence his personal and professional activities or use of his assets in society. In a broader sense, social rights refer to a series of rights that are known to eliminate social and economic injustices for the individual, and these injustices are due to the economic and social conditions prevailing in society and the environment in which the person lives (Tabatabai Motaman, 2003, 135).

Social rights reflect the active role and sense of responsibility of the state, not only in maintaining order and security but also in ensuring public welfare. In fact, the government commits itself to create a situation in which all citizens enjoy their individual fundamental rights because social rights, like individual rights and freedoms, arise from the requirements of human nature, which for him, as much as individual rights, it is vital and fundamental and will save her from injustices. The purpose of social protection is enshrined in international documents adopted by the United Nations and the International Labor Organization. Every human being should have the right to social security. Social rights must include all people, and the existence of inequalities in society leads to the exclusion of certain sections of society. Factors such as race, religion, physical condition, age, disability, and economic factors such as poverty and unemployment exacerbate inequalities. Therefore, the specific purpose of the implementation of social laws is to adjust and provide benefits and social services according to the circumstances of individuals and in order to prevent economic and social inequalities that have arisen as a result of violation or disregard of these principles. According to international instruments, social law is a set of privileges that governments, through their active participation, must provide for their nation and include rights such as work, social security, housing, and education in their agendas and programs. Among the various rights of the persons with disabilities, what is most violated is their social rights, which drastically reduces their quality of life and, in many cases, leads them to isolation and distance from society because living among members of society without the required social rights, it seems impossible or at least very difficult.

In various international conventions, various rights for persons with disabilities have been proposed, which in total can adequately cover all aspects of the rights required by persons with disabilities. Some rights have been repeated in various conventions, and some can be extracted from general international documents, which are discussed below in some of the most important rights of persons with disabilities:

1. The right to recreation and leisure

Recreation and leisure are among the basic needs of persons with disabilities and provide an opportunity for their rehabilitation and integration into society. Article 30 of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities provides a detailed description of the tourism and recreation welfare rights of the persons with disabilities and the need to enjoy these rights on an equal basis, and it is expected that such a right will be recognized in the fifth generation of human rights (Maghami, 2018, 307). Access to culture and leisure activities for persons with disabilities is a responsibility based on democracy, but it is also a commitment in many countries. 2003 was therefore chosen as the European Year of Persons with Disabilities, and the Council of Europe adopted a resolution on

access to cultural structures and cultural activities for persons with disabilities. The resolution provides recommendations for member states to promote access to culture (Laaksonen, 2010, 86).

2. The right of access

Social and communication barriers such as prejudices and negative thoughts towards persons with disabilities and the consequent lack of communication with others and lack of access to information resources and other barriers such as physical, legal, and political barriers, including restrictive policies and legislation, may lead to deprivation (Lord, 2012, 159). Lack of physical access to public transportation and other facilities, including government buildings, shopping malls, and leisure facilities, is a major factor in the isolation and deprivation of children with disabilities and endangering their access to services, including health and education health and education compared to others. These are almost partially realized in developed countries but have remained unheard of in developing countries (Kantar, 2015, 105).

One of the general principles enshrined in Article 3 of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities is access. Access is the prelude to discussions on the rights of persons with disabilities and is a prerequisite for the active participation of persons with disabilities in all aspects of life and the realization of their other rights. No one will be able to realize their human rights without the element of access. For example, everyone has the right to education, but as long as there are physical barriers to accessing schools and educational facilities, their right to education is denied. Access to the physical environment and public transportation for persons with disabilities is a prelude to freedom of movement, as guaranteed by Article 13 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and Article 12 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. Access to information and communication is also a prelude to freedom of opinion and expression, as guaranteed by Article 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and Paragraph 2 of Article 19 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. Paragraph 3 of Article 25 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights recognizes the right of every citizen to access, in accordance with the general conditions of equality of public service in his country. Paragraph 3 of Article 25 can be considered a basis for integrating the right of access in the main human rights treaties. The International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination guarantees the right of access to any place or public service, so a judicial procedure has been established within the framework of the international human rights system regarding the right of access as an individual right (Lord, 2012, 18).

As stated in Article 27 of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, international cooperation should be an important tool for promoting global access and design. This cooperation is considered important for standardization due to the need to support persons with disabilities in participating in national and international processes and in order to develop the implementation and monitoring of access standards.

3. The right to education

The right to education in Article 24 of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities is considered one of the fundamental rights of every individual in society to promote knowledge and information and develop the necessary skills, techniques, and culture in life and character development. One of the ways to achieve this purpose is to promote and persuade the educational system of countries (Stein, 2009, 268).

The right to education, including various aspects of educational and scientific freedoms, has formed an important part of contemporary human rights, which is recognized in numerous human rights documents. The Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the International Covenant on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights are among the most important documents emphasizing the right to education, and this right is now a human right that must be provided to all without discrimination and for human dignity. The right to education is the only human right for which international law has an obligation: compulsory education until the end of primary education.

4. The right to housing

Despite the widespread recognition of rights to housing in regional, international, and international legal systems, no other right to adequate housing has been violated as much as a human right. The United Nations estimates that more than 1 billion people worldwide do not live in affordable housing, and more than 100 million are homeless. The right to adequate housing is explicitly stated in international documents, including Paragraph 1 of Article 25 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, Paragraph 1 of Article 11 of the Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, Paragraph 5 (Section D) of Article 3 of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, Article 27 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, Paragraph 4 of Article 14 of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and Article 21 of the Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees. Recommendation No. 115 of the International Labor Organization on workers' housing and its Convention No. 117 on social policy can be referred to.

5. The right to work

Article 23 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights emphasizes that everyone has the right to work and to free choice of work, just and favorable conditions of work, and protection against unemployment. The right to work in fair and just conditions is also protected and guaranteed in the Covenant on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights. Pursuant to Article 6 of the Covenant, States undertake to ensure the full implementation of this right, including measures such as guidance, technical and vocational training, the development of programs and policies, and technical measures, which are essential for sustainable economic, social and cultural development and full and productive employment under conditions that preserve fundamental political and economic freedoms for individuals. The right to work has other manifestations in international documents, including the right to defend employment rights through the

formation of free trade unions and the right to equal pay for equal work. Among the necessary rights of the right to work are the right to have occupational unions in the form of unions and the right to strike. Paragraph 3 of Article 23 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and Paragraph 1 of Article 8 of the Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights recognize the right of every person to defend his own interests and to advance and safeguard economic and social interests in accordance with the relevant organization rules and states that the applying this right may not be subject to any restrictions other than those prescribed by law; and that the right of the association shall be recognized in Article 5 of the European Social Charter to guarantee or promote the freedom of workers and employers to protect their economic and social interests. According to the principle of freedom of association in domestic law, civil servants, including persons with disabilities, have the right to form unions to defend their trade union and professional rights.

6. The right to social security

Article 25 of the 1948 Universal Declaration of Human Rights states that everyone has the right to social security as a member of society, in addition to the various forms of social security such as the right to security in the event of unemployment, illness, disability, old age or lack of livelihood in the circumstances beyond the individual's control is covered by Article 25. Other international efforts in this area include the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, the International Covenant on Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, several provisions of the European Social Charter and its revised text, which aims to protect the right to social security in a broad sense, are mentioned.

7. The right to rehabilitation

Article 26 of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, without defining rehabilitation, prescribes certain rehabilitation functions for member states. The World Health Organization (WHO) has been transferred the blame for the phenomenon of disability from the individual to society by raising the three issues of disorder, disability, persons with disabilities, thereby emphasizing the abilities of people with disabilities, increasing their participation in society and it is considered rehabilitation as a set of professional and social educational measures to rehabilitate persons with disabilities in order to improve his level of efficiency as much as possible (Faraji, 2014, 5). Article 26 of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities states that States Parties shall take appropriate and effective measures to empower persons with disabilities, including by supporting their counterparts, in order to achieve and maintain maximum independence for all technical, professional, physical, mental and social abilities and the full participation of persons with disabilities in all aspects of life.

8. The right to judicial protection

Judicial protection of persons with disabilities is not a discriminatory and special approach to persons with disabilities but is intended to facilitate access to justice

and the legitimate rights of these persons. The purpose of applying the judicial justice system is to create a balance between the parties to the dispute, one of which may be in a position of power. Citing the philosophy of the existence of a judicial justice system and the fundamental rights of human beings on the one hand, as well as the physical and mental condition of persons with disabilities due to the need for protection, on the other hand, judicial protection of persons with disabilities is undeniable. In many legal and judicial systems of the world, there is no separate procedure for a person with disabilities, and there are practically no specific laws that can improve the conditions for these people in various ways. Persons with disabilities are generally exempt from certain responsibilities only in certain cases and in certain disabilities through legal notes. It can be said that the legal protection of the persons with disabilities is the protection of the persons with disabilities through the enactment of protection laws in accordance with their competence and responsibility against abuse, violence, and various crimes against this group during the trial and legal protection includes all the above measures at the time before the trial. Finally, judicial protection is support to equalize opportunities to appear and defend in the courts by empowering and facilitating appropriate communication facilities and defining appropriate tasks and structures in the judiciary and related organizations to maintain justice according to the type of disability persons with disabilities.

The Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities has largely focused on effective protection. Half of its articles always call on governments to enact effective and legally effective laws and make positive recommendations for the protection of persons with disabilities in the courts.

Conclusions

Persons with disabilities as a significant part of society who lived on the margins until a few decades ago; like other people in society, beyond all physical and mental disabilities that may overshadow their lives to a great extent and face various challenges, they are members of society and have the right to enjoy all their human rights. In order to create the necessary conditions for the proper coexistence of this group of people with others, the society must properly understand the problems and concerns of the persons with disabilities and develop practical and reasonable mechanisms to solve their problems. In international documents, for the first time in the Convention on the Rights of the Child, attention was paid to children with disabilities, and then the issue of disability issues became more important in the international society so that the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities was adopted at the initiative of a group of persons with disabilities. However, it should be noted that the mere ratification of the Convention and the Declaration alone cannot bring about a dramatic change in the lives of persons with disabilities unless the international society makes the necessary practical changes in all its internal parts. The fact that persons with disabilities, like other people in society, have rights such as the right to housing, education, health, recreation, leisure, etc., is very obvious at first, but it should be noted that governments and their physical and practical requirements for the rights of persons with disabilities can be many differences with the requirements of other people in society because disability can create a

great limitation for the persons with disabilities to use the common facilities of society in order to excel and grow their social life and therefore need to provide more facilities than needed facilities needed by non-disabled with disabilities people. In some countries, good progress has been made, but attention to the estimated statistics of the United Nations and other international institutions shows that there are still many problems for persons with disabilities, and eliminating them in the first place requires informing the public about the capabilities and needs of this group and their rights in society in order to provide a way to demand their rights from governments. At present, the rights of persons with disabilities are covered to a considerable extent in international conventions, and it is appropriate that the content of these conventions be taught in a transparent manner to persons with disabilities and others.

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